

**Sermon Handout**  
“The Church and the World”  
Acts 1:1-14

- I.** Setting the stage for Pentecost
  - A.** Luke’s introductory words vv. 1-3  
See Lk 24:44-53
  - B.** Jesus’ final instructions vv. 4-8
    - Location: the Mount of Olives v. 12 (*cf.* Mt 24-25)
    - The disciples did not yet understand v. 6
    - Jesus’ prediction v. 9 (a prophecy, not a command)
  - C.** The ascension vv. 9-11
    - The order is significant: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the world
    - Contra* Mt 24:14 (the Roman world)
  - D.** Back in Jerusalem vv. 12-14
    - The gathered church (in Jerusalem)
    - The Eleven, the women, Jesus’ kin
    - See Lk 23:27; 23:55-24:10
    - 120 disciples v. 15
    - Commitment to obey the Scriptures vv. 20-22
  
- II.** Ascension and Pentecost are inseparable
  - A.** Jesus’ explains
    - 1. To Philip: Jn 14:8-21
    - 2. To Judas: Jn 14:22-29
    - 3. To the Eleven: Jn 16:1-6
  - B.** Jesus must ascend before the Spirit descends
    - 1. Jesus commands them to wait for this 1:4-5
    - 2. The second event depends on the first Jn 16:7
  - C.** Pentecost empowers the church
    - 1. Says Jesus before his death: Jn 14:12-14
    - 2. Says the resurrected Jesus: Acts 1:8
    - 3. Demonstrated by Peter: Acts 2:14-21; 32-36
  
- III.** Key questions answered
  - A.** Is Pentecost the birth of the church?
  
  - B.** What do we learn from “the women?”
  
  - C.** Wherein lies the power of the church?